GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:355
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE IN ARID AND SEMI ARID REGIONS
Oram Shri Jual

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of arid and semi arid districts in the country,State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to promote agriculture in these regions during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details of the central schemes formulated in this regard;and

(d) the funds earmarked to promote farming in these regions?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): A statement showing state wise districts coming under arid and semi arid regions based on the studies conducted by International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics as per the parameters identified by Indian Council of Agricultural Research is given at Annexure -1.

(b) to (d): The Government has established a National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) for sustained and holistic development of rainfed areas which include arid and semi-arid regions.The Authority is an expert body to provide the much needed knowledge inputs regarding systematic upgradation and management of country`s dryland and rainfed agriculture. In the Eleventh Five Year Plan the Government is implementing various programs/schemes for development of agriculture in the country under which funds are provided for arid and semi-arid areas also. The names of the major schemes are :

(i) Watershed Programmes

National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)

Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR)

Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)

Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)

Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP)

Desert Development Programme (DDP)

(ii) National Food Security Mission (NFSM)

(iii) Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

(iv) National Horticulture Mission (NHM)